

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of controlling network access, comprising:
receiving first digital image information from at least two of a plurality of different
sources;

receiving second digital image information from an external network entity;

5 processing an order based on the first digital image information and the second
digital image information; and

outputting the first digital image information and the order for the production of
photographic products.

Sub A7 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the first digital image information is digital
photographic image information.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least two of a plurality of different
sources include a photo editing application, a digital device interface application, and a
shell extension.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the second digital image information includes
pricing and merchandise availability.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the external network entity includes at least one
of a server, photofinishing lab and third party fulfillment house.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the photographic products include photographs
and merchandise with photographs imprinted thereon.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
delaying the outputting of the first digital image information until the order is
complete.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
checking the first digital image information and the second digital image
information for image quality.

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9. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least two of a plurality of different sources include a photo editing application, a digital device interface application, a shell extension, and the external network entity.

10. A computer program embodied in a computer-readable medium for controlling network access, comprising:

a first receiving code segment for receiving first digital image information from at least two of a plurality of different sources;

5 a second receiving code segment for receiving second digital image information from an external network entity;

a processing code segment for processing an order based on the first digital image information and the second digital image information; and

10 an output code segment for outputting the first digital image information and the order for the production of photographic products.

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11. The computer program of claim 10, wherein the first digital image information is digital photographic image information.

12. The computer program of claim 10, wherein the at least two of a plurality of different sources include a photo editing application, a digital device interface application, and a shell extension.

13. The computer program of claim 10, wherein the second digital image information includes pricing and merchandise availability.

14. The computer program of claim 10, wherein the external network entity includes at least one of a server, photofinishing lab and third party fulfillment house.

15. The computer program of claim 10, wherein the photographic products include photographs and merchandise with photographs imprinted thereon.

16. The computer program of claim 10, wherein the output code segment delays the outputting of the first digital image information until the order is complete.

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17. The computer program of claim 10, further comprising:
a checking code segment for checking the first digital image information and the second digital image information for image quality.

18. The computer program of claim 10, wherein the at least two of a plurality of different sources include a photo editing application, a digital device interface application, a shell extension, and the external network entity.

19. A computer signal for controlling network access, comprising:
a first receiving segment for receiving first digital image information from at least two of a plurality of different sources;
a second receiving segment for receiving second digital image information from an external network entity;
a processing segment for processing an order based on the first digital image information and the second digital image information; and
an output segment for outputting the first digital image information and the order for the production of photographic products.

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20. The computer signal of claim 19, wherein the first digital image information is digital photographic image information.

21. The computer signal of claim 19, wherein the at least two of a plurality of different sources include a photo editing application, a digital device interface application, and a shell extension.

22. The computer signal of claim 19, wherein the second digital image information includes pricing and merchandise availability.

23. The computer signal of claim 19, wherein the external network entity includes at least one of a server, photofinishing lab and third party fulfillment house.

24. The computer signal of claim 19, wherein the photographic products include photographs and merchandise with photographs imprinted thereon.

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25. The computer signal of claim 19, wherein the output segment delays the outputting of the first digital image information until the order is complete.

26. The computer signal of claim 19, further comprising:
a checking segment for checking the first digital image information and the second digital image information for image quality.

27. The computer signal of claim 19, wherein the at least two of a plurality of different sources include a photo editing application, a digital device interface application, a shell extension, and the external network entity.

28. A network photo print system, comprising:

a user station, capable of running

a camera/scanner applications program for supplying first image data to the user station,

a photo editing applications program for supplying second image data to the user station,

an operating system, including an operating system desktop shell interface and an extension to the operating system desktop shell interface, the shell extension supplying third image data to the user station, and

a network access protocol module capable of receiving any one of the first, second, and third image data, receiving order and merchandise availability information from an external network entity; processing an order based on any one of the first, second, and third image data, and outputting any one the first, second, and third image data;

a network sales/order processing server for receiving the order and any one the first, second, and third image data image data from the user station; and

a photofinishing lab for producing photographic-quality prints images based on the order and any one the first, second, and third image data from the network sales/order processing server.

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29. The network photo print system of claim 28, wherein said network access protocol module delays the outputting any one the first, second, and third image data to said network sales/order processing server until the order is complete.

30. The network photo print system of claim 28, wherein the extension to the operating system desktop shell interface permits a user of the user station to initiate an order directly from a system file level of the operating system, without invoking an additional application program.

31. The network photo print system of claim 28, wherein said network access protocol module is a plug-in module.

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